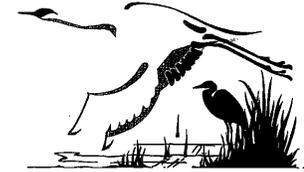


**Letter from Tom Dodson of
Tom Dodson and Associates**

Attachment 4

TOM DODSON & ASSOCIATES
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SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92405
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August 24, 2015

Ms. Kathleen Rollings-McDonald
Local Agency Formation Commission
215 North "D" Street, Suite 204
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0490

RECEIVED
AUG 26 2015

LAFCO
San Bernardino County

Dear Kathy:

LAFCO 3192 consists of a Sphere of Influence amendment for the Chino Basin Water Conservation District (District). The District encompasses approximately 81 square miles. The LAFCO Staff has identified three alternative sphere configurations for the Commission's consideration. They include: 1) expansion of the sphere of influence to be coterminous with the sphere of influence of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA); 2) expansion to include the whole of the Chino Groundwater Basin in San Bernardino County (Expansion to include Chino Groundwater Basin area in Los Angeles or Riverside counties requires an application and approval from the respective LAFCO); or 3) designation of a zero sphere of influence. LAFCO Staff is recommending alternative 1, a coterminous sphere with IEUA's sphere. As we have learned from previous sphere and service reviews, the designation of a sphere, which focuses on a planning boundary, does not by itself cause any modifications to the physical environment. Only when the subsequent step is taken to physically revise the jurisdictional boundary or range of services of a service district does a potential for physical change in the environment occur.

The sphere amendment for the District does not appear to have any potential to alter the existing physical environment in any manner. Adoption of any of the three sphere alternatives does not have any potential for causing physical changes in the environment. Therefore, I recommend that the Commission find that a General Rule Statutory Exemption (as defined in the California Environmental Quality Act, CEQA) applies to LAFCO 3192 under Section 15061 (b) (3) of the State CEQA Guidelines, which states: "A project is exempt from CEQA if the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA." It is my opinion, and recommendation to the Commission, that this circumstance applies to LAFCO 3192.

In this case, adopting a sphere that is coterminous with the IEUA sphere does not alter the existing operations or obligations of the District and does not adversely affect any existing physical facilities. Based on this review of LAFCO 3192 and the pertinent sections of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, I conclude that LAFCO 3192 does not constitute a project under CEQA and adoption of the Statutory Exemption and filing of a Notice of Exemption is the most appropriate

determination to comply with CEQA for this action. The Commission can approve the review and findings for this action and I recommend that you notice LAFCO 3192 as statutorily exempt from CEQA for the reasons outlined in the State CEQA Guideline sections cited above. The Commission needs to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the County Clerk to the Board for this action once the action is completed.

A copy of this memorandum and the NOE should be retained in LAFCO's project file to serve as verification of this evaluation and as the CEQA environmental determination record. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Dodson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Dodson